

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on October 2, 2001

Attendees: Chairman Elia Germani, Commissioner Kate Racine, Commissioner Brenda Gaynor, Steve Frias, Cindy Wilson, Douglas Hartley, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro.

Chairman Germani called the open meeting to order at 10:00 AM in the second floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.

Minutes of Open Meetings held on August 2, 2001, August 23, 2001 and September 12, 2001: After review, Commissioner Racine moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gaynor and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs):

3381 - DSCI Corporation

3380 - VerTec Telecom, Inc.

The above CLECs registered to operate in RI. The Division has reviewed the registrations and recommends approval. After review, Commissioner Racine moved to approve the registrations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gaynor and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

3141 - Verizon Advanced Data, Inc.

3028 - Qwest Communications Corp. (two filings filed on 09/17/01 & one on 09/26/01)

2736 - Conversent Communications of RI, LLC

2791 - Net2000 Communications, Inc.

2535 - Cox Rhode Island Telcom, LLC

The above CLECs filed revisions to its existing tariffs. After review, the Commission followed the Division's recommendation that the tariff filings be allowed to go in effect without suspension.

Competitive Switchless Resellers (CSRs):

2262(D16) - Global Crest Communications, Inc.

The above CSR registered to operate in RI. The Division has reviewed the registration and recommends approval. After review, Commissioner Racine moved to approve the registration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gaynor and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

2262(N15) - Reduced Rate Long Distance, LLC

2262(O) - VarTec Telecom, Inc.

2262(Y) - Incomnet Communications Corp.

The above CSRs filed revisions to its existing tariffs. After review, the Commission followed the Division's recommendation that the tariff filings be allowed to go in effect without suspension.

2262(D11) - Mercury Marketing Co. Ltd.

2262(I14) - NewSouth Communications Corp.

The above CSRs ceased operations in RI and request that their authorization to operate be cancelled and rescinded. After review, Commissioner Racine moved to rescind the authority to operate of the above CSRs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gaynor and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Interexchange Carriers (IXCs):

3383 - Sprint Communications

The above IXC filed revisions to its existing tariffs. After review, the Commission followed the Division's recommendation that the tariff filing be allowed to go in effect without suspension.

3240 - Narragansett Electric Co.: The Commission considered a request by the Renewables Collaborative's seeking approval to implement the Small Customer Renewables Program and a budget in the amount of \$1,050,000 for 2001. Mr. Hartley summarized that the program was designed to encourage residential and small general service customers to leave the Standard Offer rate and purchase green power. The funds will provide grants to marketers. In return, the marketers will provide credits or incentives to encourage customers to purchase green power. Additional safeguards were incorporated to provide customers with more protection with respect to stranded costs that would remain if the customer were to go on Last Resort service. This is a very important program and the Collaborative would like to move forward with the RFP process. After review, Commissioner Racine moved to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Chairman Germani and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.** Commissioner Gaynor further noted that the marketer would be required to provide a two-year commitment to sell green power to the customer.

1673 - Providence Gas Co.: ProvGas submitted a proposal to adjust its transportation-related Gas Charge Clause factors for the period November 1, 2001 through October 31, 2001. Chairman Germani summarized that the proposal will represent a reduction to the FT-2 Firm Transportation Marketer Gas Charge from \$0.0491 per Ccf to \$0.0322 per Ccf, a reduction to the Pool Balancing Charge from \$0.0018 to \$0.0016 per % of balancing per Ccf of throughput, and a reduction to the Weighted Average Upstream Pipeline Transportation Charge from \$1.076 to \$0.928 per MMBtu of capacity. The Division recommended approval of the charges. Chairman Germani entertained a motion to approve the GCC factors. Commissioner Racine moved to approve the proposed GCC factors for firm transportation services as filed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gaynor and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

2108 - Providence Water Supply Board (PWSB): PWSB filed a motion seeking permission to repay the City of Providence the balance of \$402,534 owed on a loan from the City to PWSB from its surplus of fiscal year ending June 30, 2001. The Division recommended PWSB's request be granted. After review, Commissioner Racine moved to grant PWSB's request to repay the City of Providence the balance of \$402,534 from its surplus of fiscal year ending June 30, 2000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gaynor and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Racine noted that PWSB recently celebrated its 75th year anniversary and wished to congratulate PWSB on behalf of the Commission.

1725 - Regulations Governing the Moratorium on Utility Service Shutoffs: With the winter season approaching, Commissioner Racine noted that Commission will keep the current rules in place pending complete examination of the current rules governing utility service shutoff and moratorium. She reported that the Division, Narragansett and ProvGas had indicated that they have finally reached a consensus, after several meetings, regarding proposed changes to the rules. The proposed changes are in draft form and it is expected to be final within thirty (30) days. The proposal will include a transition scheme that will address issues of transition from the current rules to any new rules being proposed. When these changes are filed and the consumer groups have commented to the proposed changes, Atty. Wilson will hold a prehearing conference to set a procedural schedule with the goal of scheduling hearings in February 2002. If it is determined that the current rules need to be amended, then the Commission will proceed with a rulemaking process and have new rules in place by end of the winter moratorium.

The Chairman closed the open meeting with a note to express his gratitude to his fellow commissioners and staff for pulling together during these recent times relating to the September 11th terrorist attack. During the next few months, the Commission schedule will be tremendously busy and he asked that all persons bear with the agency. The open meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.